

New York State Reform and Reinvention Collaborative

Governor Cuomo's Executive Order 203 (EO 203) mandates that all New York State local municipal governments that are served by their own police department evaluate their department's policies and practices for the purpose of formulating and adopting a plan to reform and improve those policies and practices as deemed appropriate and necessary, in an effort to be more transparent and responsive to their communities' concerns.

EO 203 mandates that each local municipality convene a committee of stakeholders representing local government and agencies, as well as representatives of a cross section of the community reflecting the community's diverse make-up, to perform this evaluation. The committee holds collaborative meetings to review their police department's operating procedures, community relations, use of force policies, the complaint process, hiring practices and training among other issues. After a series of public meetings, each municipalities' committee must prepare a written report which outlines the findings and proposed changes recommended for each police department. The report is then subject to public comment. Upon finalizing the report, it is submitted to each local legislative body for approval and adoption.

Each local government shall, by April 1, 2021, then transmit a certification to the New York State Director of Division and Budget to affirm that the process has been complied with. Failing to do so, a local government risks losing future appropriated state and federal funds which it would otherwise be eligible to receive.

The District Attorney's Office is a key stakeholder in the process of complying with the mandate of EO 203 and is participating in the evaluation process being conducted in each municipality across the county that has a police department. District Attorney David M. Hoovler has recommended that Orange County's towns and villages, which do not already have one, consider establishing police advisory boards authorized by New York State's Town and Village Law, to foster open and ongoing dialogue between municipal leaders and the community about their police departments.